Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal made a number of recommendations regarding the reduction of the academic burden on school children. In the meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education, the State Governments expressed their broad agreement with the recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee. The Government have impressed upon the State Governments/ UTs from time to time for expeditious implementation of the recommendations. The implementation of these recommendations has been initiated by most States and Central Agencies. The new National Curriculum Framework for School Education brought out by NCERT recently emphasizes reduction of curriculum load at all levels. This has been circulated to all State Governments/UTs for implementation of the suggestions made therein.

Seif-tafftciency for universities

248. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force on education has recommended to Government to reduce the funding for universities and make them to adopt the route of self-sufficiency;

(b) if so, the details of main recommendations made by the task force;

(c) whether Government propose to facilitate participation of Non-Govemmental Organisations in education, within the framework of a national system of education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the policy formulated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Special Subject Group on Policy Framework for Private Investment in Education, Health and Rural Development' has recommended in this regard as follows:—

"Just as economic infrastructure is seen as critical to an industrial society, development of educational infrastructure must be seen as critical to a knowledge society. Infrastructure for schools—buildings, telecom networks and computers—have to be funded on a priority basis. The Government can

progressively reduce the funding for universities to achieve this. These universities should take the path of self-sufficiency through higher students' fees, donations and endowments, alumni contributions, linkages with corporate establishments for research, royalties on books and research output etc. Thus UGCs role as a funding entity will no longer exist except to those areas of education involving liberal arts and performing arts."

(c) and d) The National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, emphasizes that non-govemmental and voluntary effort including social activist groups would be encouraged, subject to proper management and financial assistance provided. At the same time, steps would be taken to prevent the establishment of institutions set up to commercialise education.

Accordingly non-govemmental organizations/voluntary agencies are encouraged to participate in the educational development in the country across all sectors of education. Besides, Government has recently decided to set up Bharat Shiksha Kosh to enlist the support of all concerned and mobilize extra budgetary support in order to bridge the gap in actual requirements and the available budgetary support. The Kosh would receive donations/contributions/ endowments from individuals & corporate, Central & State Governments, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) & Persons of Indian Origins (PIOs) for various educational purposes.

Recruitment in Sanskrit Colleges

† 249. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of teaching and non-teaching staff for each Sanskrit College, according to the new curriculum;

(b) whether Government have issued orders for appointment of staff in all the Sanskrit Colleges; and

(c) if so, the category-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) There are 8 Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeethas and 21 Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas under the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (an autonomous body of the Government). The

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.